STRATEGY FOR CORPORATE PARENTING IN BIRMINGHAM

MARCH 2015

STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT & CONSULTATION FEBRUARY 2015
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Message from Cllr Seabright - Lead Champion for Corporate Parenting

Birmingham is the second largest city in the UK, after London. Birmingham City Council is the largest local authority in Europe. The city is currently seeing a programme of redevelopment and regeneration. These aspects put Birmingham in an excellent position to be able to provide and develop opportunities for its children and young people.

We know that all the children we are responsible for as corporate parents are unique individuals and that the way we provide our services must, as far as possible, take this into account. For example, we want to help our care leavers make the most of opportunities through supporting and developing initiatives that can help them become secure, productive and economically independent members of our society. We are working to improve working conditions for social workers – to reduce the time spent on office and administrative duties and maximise the time spent with children and young people. We want to make sure that children in our care feel that they have a say in how their lives are planned and organised.

This strategy sets out how Birmingham City Council and its partner agencies intend to carry out their corporate parenting responsibilities. We accept the responsibilities and challenges of being corporate parents, and by working together, we are confident that we can meet the needs of our children in care, young people and care leavers.

Letter to Children in Care from the Leader of the Council

Dear Children in Care

We are your corporate parents and will give you the kind of support that any good parents give to their children.

The Council and the key agencies in Birmingham will work together to provide that support.

We will also make sure you are well looked after, and are given every opportunity to achieve in school and attend further education/training. We want you to achieve in your career aspirations and reach your full potential in adult life. We will prepare you for leaving care and assist you to set up home when you achieve independence, which can be at any time up to your being 21 years.

On a personal level, I will ensure that both I and my fellow Councillors will work with you through the Corporate Parenting Board and Children in Care Council to listen and respond effectively to what you have to say to make your lives better. We will also make sure that the officers within the Council deliver what they say they will do to improve your lives both as children and into adulthood.
INTRODUCTION – WHAT IS CORPORATE PARENTING?

Children and young people in Care, young people and care leavers continue to be recognised as a vulnerable group in society, despite the attention over recent years towards improving outcomes for them. We recognise that they are particularly disadvantaged and will need additional support and specialist services.

The term Corporate Parenting is used for the collective responsibility of the Council and its partners to ensure the care and protection of children and young people in care, as well as care leavers.

The overall aim of this strategy is to reinforce the corporate responsibility of everyone in the Council, both elected members and staff and of its partner agencies, to improve the life chances of children in care and care leavers and get the right support and services where they live. The strategy will ensure that Councillors and all those who work with this group of children and young people are aware of what their responsibilities are.

The strategy will take a whole-authority approach to drive forward, support and strengthen the areas of good practice and work with key partners in the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors.

The Corporate Parenting Board will provide governance and an overview to ensure outcomes for children in care improve.

A children or young person who is looked after by the local authority has the right to expect that their corporate parent will care for and protect them and have the same aspirations and commitment to them as any good parent would have for their own children.

Birmingham City Council and its partners are committed to provide high quality services that promote good outcomes for children and young people and doing all they can to support them to achieve their full potential and to celebrate their successes. To achieve this, the whole system must work together: to identify need and intervene at the right time to prevent escalation and, where appropriate, to assess effectively, bring children at risk to safety, and as Corporate Parents to move quickly to help those children achieve their long term plans.

There are some key areas for specific focus:

- Consolidations in practice, to avoid drift in the system and to ensure resources are used only where intended. Evidence from 2013-14 suggests that discharges from care are at a lower rate than comparators. Policy, practice and process can be strengthened to enable better planned and more appropriate placement in the first instance and, subsequently, more timely permanence planning, case progression and exits from care.

- Support more Children in Care to succeed, recently attainment of GCSE A* to C grades has improved, but the gap between children in care, in contrast to the wider Birmingham CYP population, still requires improvement. Care leavers are still less likely to find Education, Employment or Training in Birmingham than in similar areas.

As of January 2015, the number of Children in Care (CiC) in Birmingham is 1690 and 376 Care Leavers.
1.1 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND CARE LEAVERS

The term ‘looked after’ refers to any child or young person for whom the local authority has, or shares, parental responsibility, or for whom we provide care and accommodation on behalf of their parent. The term “child” can refer to any child or young person aged 0 to 18 years. The Council also has a duty and responsibility to those young people who leave their long-term care from the age of 16 years until they reach the age of 21, or 25 if they are in higher education.

A child can become looked after with the agreement of their parent (Section 20, Children Act 1989). This is known as voluntary care. Alternatively, a child can become looked after following an application by the local authority for a Care Order (or Interim Care Order) to the Family Proceedings Court (Sections 38 and 41 Children Act 1989). In the latter case, the court has found that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, unless such an order is made. Most are looked after by other family members, by foster carers or some may live in a children’s home.

1.2 KEY LEGISLATION, LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Statutory definition of Corporate Parenting is ‘As the corporate parent of children in care the State has a special responsibility for their wellbeing. Like any good parent, it should put its own children first. That means being a powerful advocate for them to receive the best of everything and helping children to make a success of their lives’.

The legislation and government guidance that relates both generally and specifically to this strategy are:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Adoption and Children Act 2002
- The Care Standards Act 2000
- ‘If this were my child’ (DfES 2003) – a councillor’s guide to being a good corporate parent
- National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services 2004
- Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children 2009 (DoH)
- Statutory Guidance on Corporate Parenting Responsibilities of Directors of Children’s Services and Lead Members 2009
- Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children 2010
- Statutory Guidance and Regulations on Care Planning, Placement and Case Review 2010
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010
- Children and Families Bill 2014,
- Legal Aid and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012
- Raising the Participation Age duties as set out in the Education and Skills Act 2008.
2. VISION

Birmingham’s vision is that corporate parents will have the same aspirations and commitment to children and young people in care as any good parent would have for their own children. Support and services provided should always make a positive difference every day to children and young people’s lives.

Birmingham is a big city with big challenges but this also provides big opportunities. Corporate Parents will lead and develop those opportunities.

We also know from talking to children and young people that they are proud of their city.

The vision is big city, big challenges, big opportunities and children and young people who are proud to be from Birmingham.

3. THE BIRMINGHAM PLEDGE

The Birmingham Pledge lists the things that we will do to make sure that children in care have help to do their best and make a success of their lives. The Birmingham Pledge is based on what children have told us is most important to them.

**Promise 1** - We promise to involve you in decisions that affect you and to listen to your views.

**Promise 2** - We promise that we will endeavour to find you the best possible place for you to live.

**Promise 3** - We promise to make sure you have every opportunity possible to achieve at school.

**Promise 4** - We promise to encourage you to take part in all available activities that the city has to offer to ensure that your talents, hobbies and interests are met and to support you to do the things you enjoy.

**Promise 5** - We promise to take care of your health and encourage you to be healthy.

**Promise 6** - We promise to provide you with a good and clear assessment of your needs, an up to date care plan and a PEP (personal education plan).

**Promise 7** - We promise that you will have your own social worker who visits you regularly and gives you details about how to contact them or someone else if they are away when you need them.

**Promise 8** - We promise we will help you stay in touch with your family, friends and other people who are important to you.

**Promise 9** - We promise to listen to what you have to say.

**Promise 10** - We promise to work with you and give you all the help and support you need to successfully move from care to adult life.
Birmingham City Council, working with its local partners, is actively implementing the National Care Leavers Charter which is designed to raise expectations, aspiration and understanding of what care leavers need and what Corporate Parents should do to meet needs and achieve good outcomes for care leavers.

The key principals as promises to care leavers are:
- to respect and honour your identity;
- to believe in you;
- to listen to you;
- to inform you;
- to support you;
- to find you a home; and
- to be a lifelong champion.


4. TAKING THE STRATEGY FORWARD

THE ROLE OF ELECTED MEMBERS

The Government guidance for elected members, ‘If this were my child’ (DfES 2003) reiterated the leading role of elected members in ensuring their Council acts as an effective corporate parent for children and young people in care, actively supporting standards of care and seeking the high quality outcomes that every good parent would want for their child. Therefore, all elected members should be prepared and ready to champion the interests of Children in Care and young people in their community.

Elected members are in the unique position to promote opportunities for children in care and care leavers through their political power and influence, through their connections in the community, schools, health services, local businesses and employers. Elected members could also meet social workers, foster carers and the younger children by attending Foster Carer support groups.

If these links can be built upon then ‘life choices’ and outcomes for children and young people can be greatly improved.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING

Induction and training on the corporate parenting role will be provided for elected members on a regular basis to ensure that everyone is trained to carry out the role of corporate parenting in Birmingham. Young people can also train members and senior officers on what it is like to be a Child in Care.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

The Corporate Parenting Board is a strategic board which meets every three months. The board considers issues for children and young people in Care and champions how these issues can be
addressed. It oversees the Corporate Parenting Strategy to ensure the responsibilities are fulfilled through delivery of services and the achievement of outcomes for children and young people.

The Corporate Parenting Board is chaired by the Lead Corporate Parenting Champion. Other members of the Board are represented by lead professionals from within Birmingham City Council and their partners’ agencies including:

- Elected members – cross party
- Corporate Parenting – Lead Champion
- CiCC Representatives
- Director of Children’s Services
- Assistant Director Corporate Parenting
- Assistant Director Safeguarding
- Designated Doctor
- Designated Nurse
- Virtual school head
- Birmingham Foster Carers Association Representative
- Voluntary Sector Representative
- Rights and Participation Officer

The CPB reports to the Quartet, Scrutiny Committee and the Children & Young People’s Scrutiny Group.

The CPB receives an overview of how services are working with Children in Care through reports from the CP Working Group. Task and finish groups will work on specific themes and report to the CP Working group.

The views of children and young people are represented by CiCC presentation to the Board and young people as board members; participate in decisions about their care and the shaping and delivery of future services and to report on this progress.

The role of the CP Board will involve:

- Meeting and talking to children in care and young people on a regular basis to inform the work of the Board
- Ensuring the corporate parenting role is understood by all elected Members, officers working in the Council and in partner agencies
- Monitoring and oversee plans, strategies or policies for children in care, young people and care leavers to ensure performance is maintained
- Monitoring and implementing the Corporate Parenting Strategy
- Reviewing Children in Care data set, identifying issues, then driving and monitoring how these are addressed
- Deciding where focused work is required and communicating this to the Corporate Parenting Board via the Corporate Parenting Business Manager
• Provide support by attending events, such as celebration events for children and carers, achievement events, foster carers and adopter recruitment events, Children in Care Council meetings and Birmingham Association for Foster Care meetings.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPIONS GROUP (CPCG)

The Corporate Parenting Champions are a group of ten elected members who have specific responsibilities for Corporate Parenting. There is a champion for each area in Birmingham. The defined role of each champion includes a focus on their localities as well as working collectively on across Birmingham themes and in line with the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The Corporate Parenting Champions Group meets monthly and is chaired by the Lead Champion for Corporate Parenting.

The execution of the role includes: engagement with children, young people and key people in the localities, identification and work on specific issues, to motivate and drive local initiatives and to make links between the localities and the CPB.

The Corporate Parenting Champions Group meets monthly and is chaired by the Lead Champions for Corporate Parenting.

The CPCG reports to the Corporate Parenting Board.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING WORKING GROUP (CPWG)

The Corporate Parenting Working Group is a multi-agency operational group which meets monthly. The group works on key priorities, themes and issues identified and directed by the CPB and aligned with the Corporate Parenting Strategy, to ensure delivery of actions required and the achievement of outcomes for children and young people.

The Corporate Parenting Working Group is chaired by the Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting and other members of the group are professionals from within Birmingham City Council and their partners’ agencies. The core membership includes:

- Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting – chair
- Area Assistant Director
- Representative – provider services
- Designated Nurse
- Representative - LACES
- Representative – Police
- Representative – Place
- Representative - Birmingham Foster Care Association
- Representative(s) – CiC
- Rights and Participation Officer
- Representative for the Independent Reviewing Officers - IROs

Additional members will attend where appropriate to contribute to agenda items and focus on specific themes.

The CPWG will report to the Corporate Parenting Board.
**TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

Where a specific theme requires a time limited dedicated project the CPWG will set up a Task and Finish group. Terms of reference, membership, agenda and outputs required will be defined as appropriate at the time of set up.

**BUSINESS MANAGER FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

This role drives corporate parenting across the multi-agency partnership. Activities will include:

- organising the CPB, CPWG and the CPCG, setting agendas, taking minute
- supporting the CP Board, Chair and members
- supporting the CPWG and the CPCG Chairs
- communicating the actions directed from the CPB to the relevant groups or to relevant people
- tracking and monitoring of actions
- managing the interfaces between all parties and groups within the Corporate parenting system
- managing the reporting mechanisms
- hold staff communication events

**5. OUR COMMITMENT TO RAISING LIFE CHANCES**

Children in Care, young people and care leavers are more likely to experience poorer health, lower educational achievement and have fewer employment opportunities as adults.

In order to make certain that our children in care, young people and care leavers are continuously achieving in all these areas, we are committed to working together, across all agencies, to make sure that they enjoy a good parenting experience. We need the commitment of our children in care, young people and care leavers to work with us to raise their life chances and improve their prospects.

The Corporate Parenting Board will monitor progress on a quarterly basis in achieving outcomes for children in care and escalate any emerging issues to the Quartet.

In addition, the Corporate Parenting Board will produce an annual report on the performance of the service which will be presented to the Quartet, Scrutiny Committee and the Children’s Scrutiny committee.

The Corporate Parenting Board will identify key areas of focus for 2015-16 and a work programme will be developed.

**6. KEY AREAS FOR IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS**

The Corporate Parenting Board members are keen to deliver on improving outcomes in a structured approach aligned to the NICE guidelines (NICE quality standard 31 April 2013). Each of the eight guidelines is included here underpinned by some actions for delivery. Outcomes are
confirmed by gaining feedback from children and young people and evidence from data. The
guidelines use the term Looked After Children (used below within the guideline descriptors)
whereas in Birmingham there is preference for the term Children in Care.

In this section there is a definition of each quality standard and some examples of
activities required to meet the standard and achieve the outcomes for Children in Care.

6.1 Looked-after children and young people experience warm, nurturing care

This builds on the principle of encouraging warm and caring relationships between the child and
carer that nurture attachment and create a sense of permanence.

Outcomes

Evidence of local arrangements for all carers of looked-after children and young people to receive
ongoing high-quality core training and support packages - that equip them to provide warm,
nurturing care.

- Feedback from looked-after children and young people that they received warm, nurturing
care.

6.2 Looked-after children and young people receive care from services and professionals
that work collaboratively.

Collaborative working between professionals and services, including carers, promotes high quality
and consistent care and a stable experience of placements for looked-after children and young
people.

Outcomes

- team working with the child or young person to work collaboratively to manage the
  multidisciplinary care plan, with the named lead social worker taking a lead professional
  role.

- effective local information-sharing protocols between health, social care and educational
  services.

- the carer is part of the team working with the child or young person.

- the team working with the child or young person has access to a consultancy service (e.g.
  CAMHS) to support collaboration on complex casework.

6.3 Looked-after children and young people live in stable placements that take account of
their needs and preferences.

Well-planned care that takes account of the needs and preferences of looked-after children and young
people promotes stability and can reduce the need for placement changes and emergency
placements.

- a strategy to commission a diverse range of placements for looked-after children and young
  people, which includes arrangements for considering sibling co-placement

- looked-after children and young people involved in discussions about placement choices
  and changes
• arrangements for identifying potential carers among extended family and friends and assessing them for suitability at the start of the care planning process.

• arrangements to ensure that the child or young person gets to know their new carers and placement through visits and, where possible, overnight stays before they move to the placement.

Outcomes

• Looked-after children and young people’s satisfaction with their placement.
• Carer satisfaction with decisions made to place children or young people in their care.
• Feedback from looked-after children and young people that they were involved in decisions about placement changes.
• Placement stability.

6.4 Looked-after children and young people have ongoing opportunities to explore and make sense of their identity and relationships

Developing a positive identity is associated with high self-esteem and emotional wellbeing.

• ongoing activities e.g. life story work, to explore and make sense of identity, life history and appropriate health history

• coordinate ongoing contact with people that looked-after children and young people value, including former carers, siblings, other family members, friends or professionals, if this is desired and in their best interests.

Outcomes

• Feedback from looked-after children and young people that:
  • they feel supported to explore and make sense of their identity, life history and health history
  • they feel supported to have continued contact with people they value
  • they have a supportive peer network

6.5 Looked-after children and young people receive specialist and dedicated services within agreed timescales.

Looked-after children and young people have particular emotional needs, and often behavioural needs relating to their experiences before entering care and during the care process.

looked-after children and young people:
• receive specialist and dedicated services to meet their needs, delivered on a continuing basis within agreed timescales.
• health plans to be monitored and updated by independent reviewing officers, social workers and the lead health professional to ensure that the child or young person’s continuing needs are being met.
• case management and treatment to continue for looked after young people moving from child to adult mental health services, until a handover with an assessment and completed care plan has been developed with the adult service.
Outcomes

- Feedback from looked-after children and young people that they have access to the services they need.
- Feedback from carers that they feel the needs of children and young people that they look after are being met through access to specialist and dedicated services when needed.

6.6 Looked-after children and young people who move across local authority or health boundaries continue to receive the services they need.

Looked-after children and young people should not be disadvantaged when they move across local authority or health boundaries and should continue to receive the services they need.

- Good transition planning enables transfer of relevant information and continuity of services.
- Children in Care and young people also value continued contact with the same professionals when they move areas.

Outcomes

Arrangements in place before a child or young person is placed across a local authority or health boundary:

- the placing authority shares relevant information
- that an assessment of health needs has been carried out
- there is agreement between placing and receiving teams about schooling and healthcare
- arrangements have continued contact with key professionals when they are placed across a local authority or health boundary.

6.7 Looked-after children and young people are supported to fulfil their potential

Looked-after children and young people should enjoy the same opportunities as their peers.

- a designated teacher to engage with the child or young person's social worker and carer in developing and monitoring their education plans.
- supportive pathways into further and higher education and training
- supportive pathways into creative arts, physical activities and other hobbies and interests that support wellbeing and build self-esteem

Outcomes

- Feedback from looked-after children and young people that they feel supported to access education, training or employment that is right for them.
- Educational attainment among looked-after children and young people.
- Education, employment or training status among looked-after children and young people.

6.8 Care leavers move to independence at their own pace

The transition to adulthood can be difficult for young people in care. As with all young people, those leaving care value being able to move to independence at their own pace.
• pathway planning is responsive to the needs of young people preparing to leave care and equips them with the skills they need to live independently.
• care leavers are given the option to remain in a stable foster home or residential home beyond the age of 18, and to return to the care of the local authority, including their previous placement (if possible), if they experience difficulty in moving to live independently.
• a range of accommodation and support is available for care leavers.

Outcomes

• Feedback from care leavers that they felt supported to move to live independently when they were ready.
• Care leaver satisfaction with their accommodation.
• Accommodation status of young people leaving care.

7. ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

7.1 LISTENING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS.

Birmingham City Council is committed to listening and taking account of the views of the children we work with to make sure that their views influence how services are planned. Young people and care leavers are actively encouraged to get involved and share their views and experiences in a range of participatory ways.

7.2 THE CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL (CiCC)

CiCC is a group of young people who meet together to work on representing children in care and care leaver’s views. The CiCC attend meet regularly (usually twice a month).

The CiCC meet with various senior managers as appropriate and will request that certain professionals or elected members meet them. A CiCC representative(s) sit on the Corporate Parenting Board and the CiCC contribute to the annual report.

Role of the CiCC

• Potential to contribute to transforming the lives of those involved
• Ability to show and evidence children and young people’s views and how their engagement can bring about changes to services.
• A CiCC can support and add meaningful value to a corporate parenting approach.

Birmingham CiCC enable children and young people in care (and care leavers) to have a voice and engage meaningfully at different times and in different ways and to ensure that corporate parents are listening to those views and showing genuine interest. The group is open to all children in care of Birmingham City Council or a Birmingham Care Leaver. As CiCC have meetings in Birmingham it is difficult if young people cannot get to Birmingham but we are working on how we can engage with more children and young people that are placed outside Birmingham.
Examples of CiCC engagement:

- consulting children and young people specifically about their views on their social workers and what makes an idea social worker – the outcome to be shared with social workers, incorporated into ongoing training and resources produced to share with professionals
- hosting several events across the city working with other Children in Care
- talking to children and young people about their future plans and aspirations, feeding information back to the Corporate Parenting Board, and producing resources to better promote children in care’s aspirations
- meeting with the Local Government Association, Department of Education and Ofsted to discuss frontline services both as individuals and their peer’s experiences
- continuing to promote and recruit for other members of CiCC
- attending various national events hosted by the Who Cares Trust

Linking with Birmingham Foster Carers Association:

- Newsletter will advertise activities and events, promote the CICC and information about access to it
- Foster carers will encourage the children in their care to become involved and take part in activities

7.4 ADVOCACY SERVICES

The internal Rights and Participation service manage our advocacy offer to children in care/care leavers and children and young people central to child protection plans

Aims:

- Ensure that Children in Care and care leavers (and an increasing number of children/young people that are involved within child protection investigations) have access to children’s rights and an advocacy service that supports children and young people’s voices.
- Promotion of better outcomes for Children in Care and the improvement of services for children in care.

7.5 RECRUITMENT OF SENIOR COUNCIL OFFICERS

Young people are involved in the recruitment process of senior managers who will be involved in working with children in care and care leavers. Recently young people have been part of the selection process for Independent Reviewing and Child Protection Officers, Assistant Directors and Directors of services.

7.6 CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Looked After Children Education Service (LACES) and Rights and Participation(RAP) Service are launching a rewards ceremony for year 10 and over. This is a pilot project and we aim to roll it out
to more age groups. Children and Young people are invited to events across the directorate led by RAP/area teams/LACES and so on. We are developing ways to ensure that more opportunities exist to celebrate and acknowledge our children’s achievements.

Children and young people receive vouchers for exam successes and a system is being implemented to provide laptops for all those staying on in education.

### 7.7 PLANNED ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

There will be a range of events throughout the year including:

- Celebration Event – Children in Care and LACES (Looked After Children Education)
- Rights and Participation Service will be hosting a Christmas Event 2015.

### 7.8 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN REVIEWS

Children in Care are encouraged to take part in their review meetings.

Rights and Participation service have recently been working with Mindofmyown (MOMO) a self-advocacy app that helps young people express their views and get more involved in decision making. We hope to build of creative ways to encourage young people
## APPENDIX A – TARGETS/INDICATORS

### Mapping of Corporate Parenting Targets/Indicators to our Pledge for Birmingham Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pledge Statement</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
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| **Promise 1** - We promise to involve you in decisions that affect you and to listen to your views. | • Increasing the % of children in care who are satisfied with the service they receive.  
• Increasing the % of children in care participating in their reviews. |
| **Promise 2** - We promise that we will endeavour to find you the best possible place for you to live. | • Increasing the number of foster carers recruited  
• Reducing the average time between a child entering care and moving in with his/her adoptive family, for children who have been adopted.  
• Reducing the average time between the authority receiving the court authority to place a child and the authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family.  
• Reducing time it takes for prospective adopters to be assessed, approved and having child (ren) placed. |
| **Promise 3** - We promise to make sure you have every opportunity possible to achieve at school. | • Reducing absence from school for children who have been looked after for 12 months continuously.  
• Reducing the % of children in care for at least 12 months with at least one fixed term exclusion from school.  
• Increasing the % of children in care making two full levels of progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.  
• Increasing the % of children in care reaching level 4 in Maths and English at the end of Key Stage 2.  
• Increasing the % of children in care achieving five or more A*-Cs including English and Maths, five or more A*-Cs in total, five or more A*-Gs and one or more A*-Gs at GCSE.  
• Ensuring all children in care are placed in good or outstanding schools (based on Ofsted overall ratings).  
• To reduce the disruption to the education for children in care, the local authority must ensure that care planning decisions do not disrupt a child’s education and that they must not move schools in years 10 and 11 except in exceptional circumstances.  
• Ensuring children who move out of the local area will have an appropriate school place arranged in advance  
• Ensuring all children in care’s Personal Education Plans are complete, up-to-date and of high quality.  
• Ensuring all children in care have access to a school nurse to support their specific health needs through their education. |
| **Promise 4** - We promise to encourage you to take part in all available activities that the city has to offer to ensure that your talents, hobbies and interests are met and to support you to do the things you enjoy. | • Looked After Reviews monitor involvement in activities  
• PEPS – all children have a personal education plans |
| Promise 5 - We promise to take care of your health and encourage you to be healthy. | • Increasing the % of children in care who have their annual health plan completed and where identified health needs are met. |
| Promise 6 - We promise to provide you with a good and clear assessment of your needs and an up to date care plan. | • Increasing the % of children in care who have: a) a care plan; b) a health assessment; and c) a Personal Education Plan within 20 days of entering care. |
| Promise 7 - We promise that you will have your own social worker who visits you regularly and gives you details about how to contact them or someone else if they are away when you need them. | • Reducing the number of children in care with three or more social workers in a year. |
| Promise 8 - We promise we will help you stay in touch with your family, friends and other people who are important to you. | • Increasing the numbers of parents involved in their children's care plans and children in care reviews. • Increasing the satisfaction children in care have with the contact they have with their parents and siblings in line with their care plan. • Increasing the satisfaction children in care have with the contact they have with extended family members (aunts, uncles and grandparents) friends and significant others in the children and young person's life, especially when contact with direct family members (mother, father and siblings) is not possible or often enough. |
| Promise 9 - We promise to listen to what you have to say. | • Increasing the % of children in care who enter a placement which they have been specifically matched to. • Increasing the placement stability of children in care, in particular, the % who have been in the same placement for more than two years. • Increasing the number of children who are placed in Birmingham City Council foster care. • Reducing the number of children in care with three or more placements in a year. • Increasing the % of all children in care services (including individual services such as fostering and residential units) graded by Ofsted as 'Good'. • Increasing the number of children placed for adoption or placed through Special Guardianship Order (including family and friend placements). |
| Promise 10 - We promise to work with you and give you all the help and support you need to successfully move from care to adult life. | • Increasing the % of 16 to 19 year old children in care and care leavers in education, employment and training. • Increasing the number of children in care and care leavers entering further and higher education and/or participating in structured/accredited training/learning. • Reducing the number of children in care who re-offend whilst in care. • Reducing the number of children in care and care leavers on remand. |
• Reducing the number of children in care and care leavers serving custodial sentences.
• Increasing the number of care leavers in ‘Staying Put’ arrangements post 18.
• Increasing the numbers of children in care who have an identified accommodation placement post 18 at or within six months of their 16th birthday.
• Increasing the number of care leavers who are part of a network which provides on-going practical help and emotional support after leaving care.
The Corporate Parenting Board will monitor the data set and identify issues.

Number of CIC at end of each month (and per 10,000)
Number of CIC per team
Admissions and discharges of CIC / month
Number of CIN broken down by age
Number of disabilities for CIN
Category of need for CIN
No. of children entering care in month, YTD, by age
No. of children entering care in month, YTD, by gender
No. of children entering care in month, YTD, by ethnic origin
No. of children entering care in month, YTD, by need code
No. of children entering care in month, YTD, by legal status
No. of children entering care in month, YTD, by time open before care
Currently CIC by age
Currently CIC by gender
Currently CIC by disability
Currently CIC by Category of Need
Currently CIC by Legal Status
Currently CIC by Placement Type
Currently CIC by team
Currently CIC by Current time in care
Currently CIC by number of placements in year
Currently CIC by length of placement
Health assessments of CIC in last 6 months, by age
Personal Education Plans – number of CIC with current plan
Dental checks of CIC in last 12 months
Demographics of children leaving care by age
Children leaving care by gender
Children leaving care by ethnicity
Children leaving care by legal status
Children leaving care by reason
Children leaving care by length of care

Key Documents

Corporate Parenting Board - Terms of Reference

Corporate Parenting Champion – Role Description
Key:

Quartet - a group which oversees improvement in Safeguarding and includes: Leader of the Council, Elected Lead member for Children, Council’s Chief Executive and the Corporate Director for People.

EMCB – Effectively Managed Corporate Business